



Discover Massachusetts State Parks!
Visitors Guide to Free Family Friendly Programs
February Vacation Week
February 17 – 25, 2018

*Fresh air and family fun are the perfect combination for your February Vacation Week plans. Come out and play in your Massachusetts State Parks and enjoy a fantastic array of family friendly programs and experiences for all ages. Embark on a Winter Wander on Peddocks Island, celebrate President's Day by taking a hike, enjoy a manison tour at Borderland, discover signs of scat and tracks, enjoy a winter beach safari or learn all about Henry David Thoreau at Walden Pond! Enjoy guided experiences or create a park adventure on your own. There is so much to enjoy and explore in your state parks. - **Come for a visit!***

Following, please find a listing of Guided Programs, Visitor Center Special Exhibits, and ongoing Resources. For more information please visit us online at www.mass.gov/dcr.

Things to know before you go:

- All programs are free unless noted.
- Please be aware parking fees may apply – visit the park web page for applicable parking fees or <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/massparks/passes-and-fees/borrow-a-parkspass.html> to borrow a ParksPass from a community partner.
- Be season smart and safe. Dress for the weather. Bring water and snacks. Have a map and cell phone.
- Seasonal weather including extreme cold temperatures and storms affect parks and trails. **All events, programs and activities are subject to change.** Please take a moment to call ahead to confirm.
- Programs are listed by geographical region, date and time

Greater Boston

Leo J. Martin Ski Track, 190 Park Rd, Weston, MA 02493

Open Monday-Thursday 10am-9pm

Friday 10am-8pm

Weekends/Holidays 9am-6pm

Stay close to home and head to Leo J. Martin Ski Track located just 15 minutes from downtown Boston! Visitors can receive cross-country ski and snowshoeing instruction and purchase equipment rentals through Weston Ski Track. There is a 2.5-km lighted loop that provides consistent snow conditions and reliable night skiing. Drop in for a beginner lesson and then warm up in the snack bar. Weston Ski Track operates in cooperation with the Massachusetts Dept. of Conservation & Recreation. Please note hours are subject to change due to special events, weather, and ski trail conditions. For more information visit www.skiboston.com

Central Massachusetts

Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park

River Bend Farm Visitor Center, 287 Oak St., Uxbridge, 508-278-7604

Friday, February 16- Monday, February 19, available 10am-4pm:

STORYWALK® AT GRANDPA'S SUGAR BUSH by Margaret Carney

Get outside and enjoy reading a story as you stroll along the park. The featured picture book captures the signs of spring and the old fashioned way of making maple syrup. Short, self-guided walk

Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park

River Bend Farm Visitor Center, 287 Oak St., Uxbridge, 508-278-7604

Winter Wildlife Tracking

Saturday February 17, 10:00-11:30

Get out and explore nature! Learn what animals do to survive winter, take a short nature walk to discover signs of wildlife around the park. Follow up with making a birdseed ornament for your own backyard. This program is free and open to the public, geared toward elementary ages. Meet at Visitor Center. Up to 1 mile easy walk.

Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park

River Bend Farm Visitor Center, 287 Oak St., Uxbridge, 508-278-7604

Water & Fire River Walk

Saturday February 17, 1:00-2:30

Show your love for the elements earth, air, water and fire! Take an easy walk to the bank of the Blackstone River, gather around a campfire, and enjoy hot chocolate as we talk about water quality and share stories of the river's recovery. Spend some time outdoors and bask in the peacefulness of the sights and sounds of water and fire. All ages welcome. Easy walk to river approx. 1 mile round trip. Bring snowshoes if conditions permit.

Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park

River Bend Farm Visitor Center, 287 Oak St., Uxbridge, 508-278-7604

Maple Sugar Maker's Weather Watch

Monday, February 19, 1:00-2:00

Is it maple sugaring season yet? Let's talk about the weather and the science of maple sugaring to find out what conditions get the sap running, then head out on the trail for some hands on action as we measure and mark trees for tapping. Meet at Visitor Center, all ages. Up to 1 mile walk.

Willard Brook State Forest, Route 119, Ashby, (Park Headquarters is 599 Main Street, West Townsend), 978-597-8802

On the Path to Conservation

Presidents' Day Snowshoe Hike

Monday, February 19, 2018, 1:00-3:00pm

Meet at the parking area for Damon Pond near the pavilion on Rt. 119 for this moderate 1.5-mile guided **snowshoe hike** on the trails and fire roads of Willard Brook State Forest. Along the way, discover a legacy of conservation and be inspired to make a difference!

Dress for the weather. **You must have appropriate footwear to participate (sturdy hiking boots or snow boots). Bring snowshoes if we have snow, or "ice walkers" if there is little to no snow.** Don't forget your hat and gloves! Fire roads and trails will be icy in spots, and you

will encounter some rocky areas. The route has some sections of moderately steep terrain. Bring water and a snack. We will end with a campfire close to our parking area. Bring your own marshmallows!

Note: Restrooms are not available at the parking area or along the hike route. Please feel free to stop in at the park headquarters building (599 Main Street, West Townsend) before going to the meeting location if you'd like to use a restroom before the program. Headquarters is approximately a 5-minute drive from the program meeting location. Hike begins at 1:00.

All children must be accompanied by a parent/ adult guardian. For more information or directions, call (978) 597-8802. Reasonable accommodations upon request.

Wachusett Reservoir, Boylston

Monday, February 19th 1:00 P.M.

President's Day Snowshoe Hike

Take a walk/snowshoe to the shoreline of the Wachusett Reservoir with Watershed Rangers. Along the way we will explore the wooded, winter wonderland that surrounds the reservoir. We will also discuss the survival techniques of New England's wildlife. The walk will last about an hour and the terrain will be easy to moderate. Meet at the Gate 8 parking lot at the intersection of Cross St. and Route 70 in Boylston. For more information, directions, or accessibility questions please contact the Wachusett Watershed Rangers at 978-365-3800 or Jim Lafley at 508-792-7423 x 231.

Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park

River Bend Farm Visitor Center, 287 Oak St., Uxbridge, 508-278-7604

Wednesday, February 21, 10:30-12:00

Make Your Own Storybook Hike

Meet at the Visitor Center to join park staff and special guest Marjorie Turner Hollman on a nature discovery walk to explore and find ideas to create a nature story. Following the walk, gather in the visitor center to draw or write down discoveries to create your own book. Child/adult teams are encouraged to assist in writing the narrative. All supplies will be provided. Walk is less than 1 mile on field paths. All ages welcome. In the event of snow or inclement weather, event will be moved to Saturday, Feb. 24. For weather updates please call the park at 508-278-7604.

Quabbin Reservoir, 485 Ware Road, Belchertown

Wednesday, February 21, 11am

Critter Signs!

We're surrounded! By wildlife, that is. Learn how to spot signs of wildlife activity in this fun-fact-filled presentation. Best for ages 5-8. Meet in the Visitor Center. Please call (413) 323-7221 for more information.

Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park
River Bend Farm Visitor Center, 287 Oak St., Uxbridge, 508-278-7604

All About Owls

Thursday, February 22, 10:00-11:30

Learn about the most common owls of the area and hear recordings of their calls. Discover how these fascinating birds live and eat. Discover how the habitat favors prey that owls need for food and physical structures that make owls successful hunters in low light. Be prepared to take a closer look and dissect an owl pellet. All ages. Meets inside Visitor Center.

Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park
River Bend Farm Visitor Center, 287 Oak St., Uxbridge, 508-278-7604

Habitat Hike

Thursday, February 22, 12:00-1:00

See what wildlife is up to in the winter around the park. Find clues of winter residents; think like an animal as we walk around habitats that may provide cozy resting places. Meet at Visitor Center, walk approximately 1 mile.

Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park
River Bend Farm Visitor Center, 287 Oak St., Uxbridge, 508-278-7604

Maple Story Time

Friday, February 23, 10:30-11:30

Join us in the heated meeting room of River Bend Farm Visitor Center for a maple themed story time, to introduce young children to where maple syrup comes from. Stories will be followed by a craft and a short outdoor nature walk. Meets rain or shine- during inclement weather, outdoor discoveries will be substituted by an indoor activity. For preschool and early elementary ages- siblings always welcome.

Northeastern Massachusetts

Belle Isle Marsh Reservation

An Oasis for Wildlife

Saturday, February 17, 8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.

Discover the abundant birdlife at Belle Isle Marsh Reservation, a restored wildlife sanctuary. We will walk while birding for a distance of a mile on easy level terrain. Some binoculars and a spotting scope will be provided but please bring these items if you have them. Reasonable accommodations available upon request. Co-sponsored by the Friends of Belle Isle Marsh. Please dress for the weather. For all ages. Bring water. Sunscreen is advised. **Meet at:** Main Parking lot near the bulletin board, located on Bennington Street, East Boston between address 1236 Bennington St., East Boston and 173 Bennington St., Revere. Parking is on a paved lot and is free of charge. Accessible by public transportation: MBTA Blue line, Beachmont Station. Exit station, turn right, at intersection, cross State Road/Bennington Street, travel right along Bennington Street to park entrance on the left. Visit www.MBTA.com for bus and train information.

Walden Pond State Reservation, 915 Walden St., Concord

Winter Animal Tracking in the Footsteps of Thoreau

Saturday, February 17, 10:30-11:30

Join an expert animal tracker in exploring the area around Walden Pond in search of the clues left behind by our resident wild animals. The program will start **at the Walden Pond State Reservation Visitor Center**. Wear warm winter clothing, hats, gloves or mittens, thick warm socks, and winter boots. The program is best suited for adults and older children. In the event of extreme inclement weather such as bitter cold wind or rain or sleet, the program will be held as a presentation inside the visitor center. The daily parking fee is \$8 per vehicle with MA plates, \$15 per vehicle for out of state plates. **Park hours, inquiries and updates call - (978) 396-3254 Check capacity closures at Twitter [@waldenpondstate](#)**

Walden Pond State Reservation, 915 Walden St., Concord

Thoreau's Stay at Walden

Saturday, February 17, 12:30 – 2:30pm

Drop by the **Thoreau house replica** near the **Walden Pond State Reservation** main parking lot to discover from a Park Interpreter how and why Henry David Thoreau lived “a deliberate life” in Walden for two years, two months and two days. We will have the woodstove going to keep us warm as we regale you with tales about Henry’s life and the importance of the social and environmental legacies he left behind. For families with children. The daily parking fee is \$8 per vehicle with MA plates, \$15 per vehicle for out of state plates. **Park hours, inquiries and updates call - (978) 396-3254 Check capacity closures at Twitter [@waldenpondstate](#)**

Winthrop Beach, Winthrop Shore Drive

Avian Delights

Saturday, February 17 1:30-2:30 p.m. (Afternoon)

Observe water birds and learn about their adaptations for survival as we walk on the beach sand for a distance of up to one mile. Terrain can be uneven. Some binoculars and a spotting scope will be provided but please bring these items if you have them. Please dress for the weather. For all ages. Bring water. Sunscreen is advised. Co-sponsored by the Friends of Belle Isle Marsh. **Meet at:** Winthrop Beach on Winthrop Shore Drive across from Sturgis Street and 62 Winthrop Shore Drive, Winthrop, MA. On street parking is available free of charge. Accessible by Public Transportation: Paul Revere Transportation bus 712 or 713 Point Shirley-Orient Heights, arrive at the Winthrop Beach stop then walk down Sturgis Street, Winthrop MA (If traveling from outside Winthrop, board the bus at the MBTA Orient Heights station on the blue line). Visit www.MBTA.com for bus and train information (schedule, route and fees).

Halibut Point State Park, Gott Avenue, Rockport

Winter Birding

Sunday, February 18 8:00 -10:00 a.m.

Join us on a two-hour walk over easy to moderate trails in search of seasonal bird specialties. Beginners are encouraged to attend. Please dress for the weather. For all ages. Bring water. Sunscreen is advised. Trails may be slippery. Please bring your binoculars and if you are able to a spotting scope to share. For more information, contact Peter@caliper.com. Co-sponsored by the Brookline Bird Club

Meet at: Halibut Point State Park, Parking lot, on Gott Avenue in Rockport.

Walden Pond State Reservation, 915 Walden St., Concord

Presidents During Henry's Time

Monday, February 19, 1:00-2:00pm

To celebrate the Presidents Day holiday, join a park interpreter at **the Walden Pond State Reservation Visitor Center** to learn about American presidents during Henry David Thoreau's lifetime, and find out what he thought about them. This is a fun and informative program. **For families with older children.** The daily parking fee is \$8 per vehicle with MA plates, \$15 per vehicle for out of state plates. **Park hours, inquiries and updates call - (978) 396-3254** Check capacity closures at Twitter [@waldenpondstate](https://twitter.com/waldenpondstate)

Walden Pond State Reservation, 915 Walden St., Concord

Snow Beauties

Tuesday, February 20 and **Thursday**, February 22, 1:00 -2:00pm

Both Henry David Thoreau and Wilson Bentley were fascinated by snowflakes; Thoreau wrote lyrical descriptions and Bentley created exquisite photographs. Come celebrate these "six-rayed snowy stars" at the **Walden Pond State Reservation Visitor Center**, joining park staff in some snowflake making. This program is appropriate for all ages! The daily parking fee is \$8 per vehicle with MA plates, \$15 per vehicle for out of state plates. **Park hours, inquiries and updates call - (978) 396-3254** Check capacity closures at Twitter [@waldenpondstate](https://twitter.com/waldenpondstate)

Belle Isle Marsh Reservation, Bennington Street, East Boston/Revere Line

Winter Wildlife Detectives

Wednesday, February 2, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Can you imagine living outside through the entire winter like the coyotes do at Belle Isle Marsh in East Boston? Join us as we explore the trails of the Marsh searching for signs of the many wild creatures that are active during the winter. Learn how animals are adapted to survive outside during the chilly and challenging winter season and how you can become a protector of local wildlife. Please dress for the weather. For all ages. Bring water. Sunscreen is advised. Co-sponsored by the Friends of Belle Isle Marsh. **Meet at:** Main Parking lot near the bulletin board, located on Bennington Street, East Boston between address 1236 Bennington St., East Boston and 173 Bennington St., Revere. Parking is on a paved lot and is free of charge. Accessible by public transportation: MBTA Blue line, Beachmont Station. Exit station, turn right, at intersection, cross State Road/Bennington Street, travel right along Bennington Street to park entrance on the left. Visit www.MBTA.com for bus and train information.

Walden Pond State Reservation, 915 Walden St., Concord

The Frozen Water Trade

Wednesday, February 21 and **Friday**, February 23, 1:00 -2:30pm

While Henry David Thoreau was living at Walden Pond, Frederic Tudor, the "Ice King of New England," brought workers to the pond, harvesting up to a thousand tons of ice per day and stacking it in a giant pile on the shore. Come learn about this fascinating chapter in New England's history. Meet at the Visitor Center. For families with children. The daily parking fee is \$8 per vehicle with MA plates, \$15 per vehicle for out of state plates. **Park hours, inquiries and updates call - (978) 396-3254** Check capacity closures at Twitter [@waldenpondstate](https://twitter.com/waldenpondstate)

Revere Beach Reservation, One Eliot Circle, Revere
Winter Beach Safari

Thursday, February 22 9:00-10:00 a.m.

Did you know that razor clams can rapidly burrow deeper into the sand when disturbed by predators? Join us to learn about the fascinating lives of animals of the seashore and to discover the new treasures of animal shells that have washed up on the beach. Please dress for the weather. For all ages. Bring water. Sunscreen is advised. **Meet at:** One Eliot Circle, Revere MA (The tan DCR building at the corner of Dolphin Avenue). Accessible by Public Transportation: MBTA Blue line Revere Beach Station, turn right on Revere Beach Boulevard and walk to Eliot Circle, Revere, MA; Visit www.MBTA.com.

Walden Pond State Reservation, 915 Walden St., Concord
Snow Beauties

Tuesday, February 20 and **Thursday**, February 22, 1:00 -2:00pm

Both Henry David Thoreau and Wilson Bentley were fascinated by snowflakes; Thoreau wrote lyrical descriptions and Bentley created exquisite photographs. Come celebrate these “six-rayed snowy stars” at the **Walden Pond State Reservation Visitor Center**, joining park staff in some snowflake making. This program is appropriate for all ages! The daily parking fee is \$8 per vehicle with MA plates, \$15 per vehicle for out of state plates. **Park hours, inquiries and updates call - (978) 396-3254 Check capacity closures at Twitter [@waldenpondstate](https://twitter.com/waldenpondstate)**

Nahant Beach Reservation, Lynn
Winter Beach Safari

Friday, February 23 11:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.

Did you know that the moon snail uses its radula (a tongue-like rasping organ) to bore a small hole in a clam shell and then sucks out the flesh of its victim? Join us to learn about the fascinating lives of animals of the seashore and to discover the new treasures of animal shells that have washed up on the beach. Please dress for the weather. For all ages. Bring water. Sunscreen is advised. **Meet at:** The James J. Ward Bath House ocean side near the outdoor showers located on the Don John Aliferis Memorial Rotary aka Lynnway Rotary, Lynn MA. For a map with parking locations and information about parking fees visit www.mass.gov/dcr. Please note that the entrance to the parking lot along Nahant Beach is at the South end of the beach.

Walden Pond State Reservation, 915 Walden St., Concord
The Frozen Water Trade

Wednesday, February 21 and **Friday**, February 23, 1:00 -2:30pm

While Henry David Thoreau was living at Walden Pond, Frederic Tudor, the “Ice King of New England,” brought workers to the pond, harvesting up to a thousand tons of ice per day and stacking it in a giant pile on the shore. Come learn about this fascinating chapter in New England’s history. Meet at the Visitor Center. For families with children. The daily parking fee is \$8 per vehicle with MA plates, \$15 per vehicle for out of state plates. **Park hours, inquiries and updates call - (978) 396-3254 Check capacity closures at Twitter [@waldenpondstate](https://twitter.com/waldenpondstate)**

Southeastern Massachusetts

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton

Every day in February 8:00am to 4:00pm

Winter Selfie Scavenger Hunt

During the month of February, stop on by the visitor center to grab a “Winter Selfie Scavenger Hunt” brochure. This scavenger hunt is fun and simple for all ages. Look at the photographs in the brochure along with the written clues, and then go on an adventure to find the location of each photograph at Borderland State Park. Snap a selfie in front of each location you find and, if you want, share your adventure with the world by uploading your photographs to social media with the hash tag: #BorderlandAdventure. Brochures will be available inside the visitor center for the month of February, or you can download one on the Friends of Borderlands website: www.friendsofborderland.org. Enjoy your Borderland Adventure! When taking selfies, please be aware of your surroundings. This program is free and open to the public. Parking fees apply: \$5.00 per MA-plate vehicle and \$10 per out-of-state-plate vehicle. For more information, call (508) 238-6566.

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton

Saturday, February 17 Offered twice; 12:00pm – 12:45pm & 1:00pm – 1:45pm

A Presidential Mansion Tour - Celebrate Presidents Day Weekend at Borderland State Park on this adapted tour. Learn about all the presidents whose stories intertwined with the Ames Family. Did you know that Blanche and Oakes Ames are related to many politicians and military war heroes? Having a family with a lot of political connection, naturally they crossed paths with presidents. The Ames Family and their relatives played an intrinsic role in shaping the state of Massachusetts and the Nation. Join the Park Interpreter for a 45-minute guided tour learning about the Ames family involvement in war and in politics. For adults and older children. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Meet in front of the Ames Mansion. Rain, snow or shine. This program is free and open to the public. Parking fees apply: \$5.00 per MA-plate vehicle and \$10 per out-of-state-plate vehicle. For more information, call (508) 238-6566.

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton

Saturday, February 17 2:00pm – 2:30pm

Kids Mansion Tour – What would it be like to be a kid living in this huge mansion? Join the Park interpreter for this 30-minute interior tour of the Ames Mansion. Program is best for families with younger kids to explore the first floor of the mansion. For all ages. Meet in front of the Ames Mansion. Rain, snow or shine. Grab a brochure of suggested family hikes from the Visitor Center or the Park Interpreter and enjoy a winter walk at the park before or after your tour. This program is free and open to the public. Parking fees apply: \$5.00 per MA-plate vehicle and \$10 per out-of-state-plate vehicle. For more information, call (508) 238-6566.

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton

Sunday, February 18 Offered twice; 11:00am – 11:30am & 1:00pm – 1:30pm

Kids Mansion Tour – What would it be like to be a kid living in this huge mansion? Join the Park interpreter for this 30-minute interior tour of the Ames Mansion. Program is best for families with younger kids to explore the first floor of the mansion. For all ages. Meet in front of the Ames Mansion. Rain, snow or shine. Grab a brochure of suggested family hikes from the Visitor Center or the Park Interpreter and enjoy a winter walk at the park before or after your

tour. This program is free and open to the public. Parking fees apply: \$5.00 per MA-plate vehicle and \$10 per out-of-state-plate vehicle. For more information, call (508) 238-6566.

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton

Sunday, February 18 12:00pm – 12:45pm

A Presidential Mansion Tour - Celebrate Presidents Day Weekend at Borderland State Park on this adapted tour. Learn about all the presidents whose stories intertwined with the Ames Family. Did you know that Blanche and Oakes Ames are related to many politicians and military war heroes? Having a family with a lot of political connection, naturally they crossed paths with presidents. The Ames Family and their relatives played an intrinsic role in shaping the state of Massachusetts and the Nation. Join the Park Interpreter for a 45-minute guided tour learning about the Ames family involvement in war and in politics. For adults and older children. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Meet in front of the Ames Mansion. Rain, snow or shine. This program is free and open to the public. Parking fees apply: \$5.00 per MA-plate vehicle and \$10 per out-of-state-plate vehicle. For more information, call (508) 238-6566.

Quashnet River, Waquoit Bay Reserve, Martin Road Parking Lot, off Route 28, Falmouth

Sunday, February 18 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Southeastern Massachusetts Adult Walking Club – Adults need time to experience the outdoors, too! Join the DCR's Southeast Massachusetts Adult Walking Club on a moderate walk, 2.5 miles with some hilly terrain along a restored native brook trout stream. We'll walk sandy, wooded fire roads along one side of the waterway and then we'll cross the river to return on a narrower trail with higher elevation. For ages 16+. Park at lot on Martin Road, off Route 28 in Falmouth. No restrooms available. Please dress for the weather and bring water and snack. This hike is free and open to the public; no parking fee. For more information, call (508) 457-0495 ext. 125.

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton

Monday, February 19 10:00am – 2:00pm

Self-Guided: Make your own Bird Feeder – Stop by the visitor center, where the staff will have directions and supplies to make your own bird feeder. Take the bird feeder home with you and enjoy watching the winter birds visit your feeder. Supplies are limited, while supplies last. One per person. Rain, snow or shine. Self-guided craft will be hosted inside the visitor center. Children must be accompanied by an adult. This self-guided opportunity is free and open to the public. Parking fees apply: \$5.00 per MA-plate vehicle and \$10 per out-of-state-plate vehicle. For more information, call (508) 238-6566.

Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, 131 Waquoit Highway (Rt. 28), Falmouth

Tuesday, February 20 10:00am -11:30am

A Warm Winter's Tail – Discover unique ways that animals survive in cold weather and investigate how own behaviors and adaptations help us to stay warm when the temperatures drop. We'll read the story, "A Warm Winter's Tail," about wildlife in winter, hike the trails searching for signs of animal activity and create a craft to take home. Program is best for ages 4-10, siblings and friends welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Program will be held indoors in inclement weather, otherwise, please dress for some outdoor exploration. Meet

at the Reserve Visitor Center. Program is free; no parking fee. For more information, please call (508) 457-0495 x125.

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton

Tuesday, February 20 10:00am – 2:00pm

Self-Guided: Make your own Bird Feeder – Stop by the visitor center, where the staff will have directions and supplies to make your own bird feeder. Take the bird feeder home with you and enjoy watching the winter birds visit your feeder. Supplies are limited, while supplies last. One per person. Rain, snow or shine. Self-guided craft will be hosted inside the visitor center. Children must be accompanied by an adult. This self-guided opportunity is free and open to the public. Parking fees apply: \$5.00 per MA-plate vehicle and \$10 per out-of-state-plate vehicle. For more information, call (508) 238-6566.

Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, 131 Waquoit Highway (Rt. 28), Falmouth

Wednesday, February 21 10:00am – 11:00am

Owl Discovery and Owl Pellet Dissection - Do you know what an owl eats? Join a park interpreter and using owl pellets, magnifying glasses and animal bone charts you will learn how to dissect the owl pellet. Using evidence you uncover, we will try to determine what the owl has eaten. This is a drop in program; you do not have to stay the entire duration. While pellet supplies last. Great for children ages 6 and up; all children must be accompanied by an adult. Rain, snow or shine. This program is free and open to the public; no parking fee. For more information, call (508) 457-0495 ext 125.

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton

Wednesday, February 21 10:30am – 11:30am

Story Hour by the Fire with the Sharon Library at the Visitor Center - Join Ms. Jessica, the childrens' librarian from the Sharon Public Library, and the staff at Borderland for a story by the warm fire. After the story, there will be coloring and crafts for the children. Great for children of all ages, children must be accompanied by an adult. The story hour will be held at the visitor center at Borderland State Park. This program is free and open to the public. Parking fees apply: \$5.00 per MA-plate vehicle and \$10 per out-of-state-plate vehicle. For more information, call (508) 238-6566.

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton

Wednesday, February 21 12:00pm – 12:30pm

Kids Mansion Tour – What would it be like to be a kid living in this huge mansion? Join the Park interpreter for this 30-minute interior tour of the Ames Mansion. Program is best for families with younger kids to explore the first floor of the mansion. For all ages. Meet in front of the Ames Mansion. Rain, snow or shine. Grab a brochure of suggested family hikes from the Visitor Center or the Park Interpreter and enjoy a winter walk at the park before or after your tour. This program is free and open to the public. Parking fees apply: \$5.00 per MA-plate vehicle and \$10 per out-of-state-plate vehicle. For more information, call (508) 238-6566.

Blue Hills Reservation, Brookwood Farm parking lot, 11 Blue Hill River Road, Canton
Wednesday, February 21 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Be a Wildlife Detective – Put on your detective hat as we search for clues of animal activity. Where do animals go in the winter? Unlock the mysteries of wildlife in winter on this seasonal safari. Dress in warm layers and boots. Don't forget hats and mittens, too. Program is best for ages 8 and up. This program is free and open to the public; no parking fee. Meet at the small kiosk at the Brookwood Farm parking lot at 11 Blue Hill River Road in Canton. For more information, please call (617) 698-1802.

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton
Thursday, February 22 10:00am – 11:00am

Birds of Prey - Live Birds! - Join Marla Isaac and the Friends of Borderland inside the visitor center to see live hawks, owls and even a vulture! Marla explains the adaptations that make raptors special, how they hunt and their places in the ecosystem. Take photos up close of these dramatic and awe-inspiring birds! This event is sponsored by the Friends of Borderland. Great for kids of all ages, all children must be accompanied by an adult. This program is free and open to the public. Parking fees apply: \$5.00 per MA-plate vehicle and \$10 per out-of-state-plate vehicle. In case of inclement weather, or for more information, call (508) 238-6566.

Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, 131 Waquoit Highway (Rt. 28), Falmouth

Thursday, February 22 10:00am -11:30am

Weather Watchers Safari – Discover the importance of weather and how it impacts wildlife as well as humans. Use science tools and observations to find the warmest, coldest, wettest and windiest places around the visitor center and discover how weather sometimes shapes the land. We'll make snow sculptures outside if the weather cooperates or a winter craft if the ground is dry. Weather Watchers is best for ages 6 to 10 but siblings and friends are welcome. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Please dress for outdoor exploration. In case of inclement weather, program will be shortened to one hour and be held indoors. Program is free; no parking fee. For questions and additional information please call the park at 508-457-0495 ext.125.

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton
Thursday, February 22 12:00pm – 12:30pm

Kids Mansion Tour – What would it be like to be a kid living in this huge mansion? Join the Park interpreter for this 30-minute interior tour of the Ames Mansion. Program is best for families with younger kids to explore the first floor of the mansion. For all ages. Meet in front of the Ames Mansion. Rain, snow or shine. Grab a brochure of suggested family hikes from the Visitor Center or the Park Interpreter and enjoy a winter walk at the park before or after your tour. This program is free and open to the public. Parking fees apply: \$5.00 per MA-plate vehicle and \$10 per out-of-state-plate vehicle. For more information, call (508) 238-6566.

South Cape Beach State Park, Great Oak Road, Mashpee

Thursday, February 22, 1:00pm – 2:30pm

Snowy Owl Walk

This is a chance to learn about and hopefully view one of these magnificent raptors that have been spending the winter months in our area. Learn about snowy owls' life cycle, diet and possible reasons why they travel to Cape Cod from their Arctic homes. This program is suitable for all ages. There will be some walking in soft sand. Meet at Mashpee Town Beach Parking Lot, next to South Cape Beach State Park on Great Oak Road in Mashpee. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Please dress for outdoor exploration. In case of inclement weather, program will be cancelled. No facilities available at this site. Please bring drinking water. Program is free; no parking fee. For questions and additional information please call the park at 508-457-0495 ext.125.

Blue Hills Reservation, Houghton's Pond parking lot, 840 Hillside Street, Milton

Thursday, February 22 1:00pm - 2:30pm

Cabin Fever Family Fun Hike - Are you tired of sitting on the couch? Grab the kids and get out! Join a DCR Park interpreter for some fun under the winter sun. We'll take a 1.5 mile trek and play some nature games along the way. Dress in warm layers and boots. Don't forget hats and mittens too. For ages 8 and up. This program is free and open to the public; no parking fee. Meet at Houghton's Pond parking lot at 840 Hillside Street in Milton. For more information, please call (617) 698-1802.

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton

Friday, February 23 11:00am – 11:45am

A Presidential Mansion Tour - Celebrate Presidents Day Week at Borderland State Park on this adapted tour. Learn about all the presidents whose stories intertwined with the Ames Family. Did you know that Blanche and Oakes Ames are related to many politicians and military war heroes? Having a family with a lot of political connection, naturally they crossed paths with presidents. The Ames Family and their relatives played an intrinsic role in shaping the state of Massachusetts and the Nation. Join the Park Interpreter for a 45-minute guided tour learning about the Ames family involvement in war and in politics. For adults and older children. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Meet in front of the Ames Mansion. Rain, snow or shine. This program is free and open to the public. Parking fees apply: \$5.00 per MA-plate vehicle and \$10 per out-of-state-plate vehicle. For more information, call (508) 238-6566.

Myles Standish State Forest, 194 Cranberry Road, South Carver

Friday, February 23 1:00pm – 2:00pm

A Tale of Two Presidents - Spend this Presidents Day week learning about the connection between Myles Standish State Forest and Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt. These two American presidents directly contributed to the preservation and improvement of this beautiful forest. Learn how the Roosevelt's were instrumental in making this forest what it is today. This is an outdoor program. We'll walk about 1 mile as we tell "A Tale of Two Presidents." Dress in warm layers and boots. Don't forget hats and mittens, too. Meet in front of the Interpretive Center next to Headquarters at 194 Cranberry Road in South Carver. Suitable for adults and children 10+. This program is free and open to the public; no parking fee. Rain, snow, or icy trails will cancel. For more information, call (508) 272-9376.

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton

Friday, February 23 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Off The Beaten Path Hike - Let's hike some of the lesser known trails during the winter season at Borderland State Park. Each week we will change up the hike, exploring different trails and areas of the park on these easy to moderate 2-5 mile hikes. Dress for the weather, bring water, and wear winter boots. Hike is easy to moderate in difficulty. For adults and older children 13+. Meet at the Visitor Center. Rain, icy trail conditions, and snow may cancel, please call ahead to confirm. This hike is free and open to the public. Parking fees apply: \$5.00 per MA-plate vehicle and \$10 per out-of-state-plate vehicle. For more information, call (508) 238-6566.

Myles Standish State Forest, 194 Cranberry Road, South Carver

Saturday, February 24 10:00am – 11:00am

Winter Animal Tracking - Spend some time exploring the forest to find signs of the animals who live here. If there's snow on the ground, we'll be sure to see some tracks. But if there's no snow, there's still a good chance that we can find some animal tracks, signs, and scat (also known as poop!). This is a family-friendly outdoor program. Dress in warm layers and boots. Don't forget hats and mittens, too. No dogs, please. Meet in front of the Interpretive Center next to Headquarters at 194 Cranberry Road in South Carver. This program is free and open to the public; no parking fee. Rain, snow, or icy trails may cancel. For more information, call (508) 272-9376.

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton

Saturday, February 24 10:00am – 11:00am

Owl Discovery & Pellet Dissection – Do you know what an owl eats? Drop in the visitor center between 10:00am and 11:00am on Saturday, February 24, 2018. The park staff will have owl pellets, magnifying glasses, bone charts and will teach you how to dissect the owl pellet and together we will discover what an owl eats. This is a drop in program; you do not have to stay the entire duration. While supplies last. Great for children ages 6 and up; all children must be accompanied by an adult. Rain, snow or shine. This program is free and open to the public. Parking fees apply: \$5.00 per MA-plate vehicle and \$10 per out-of-state-plate vehicle. For more information, call (508) 238-6566.

St. Moritz Area, Shea Rink parking lot, 651 Willard Street, Quincy

Saturday, February 24 10:00am – 11:00am

St. Moritz Winter Wander - The St. Moritz area of Quincy was once the home to a huge winter carnival where elite athletes would perform, and locals could recreate. Join us as we discover the interesting history of this winter wonderland and explore its remnants, including where a 60-foot long 100-foot high ski jump once stood, on an easy hike. For ages 8 and up. This program is free and open to the public; no parking fee. Meet at the Shea Rink parking lot at 651 Willard Street in Quincy. For more information, please call (617) 698-1802.

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton

Saturday, February 24 11:00am-2:00pm

Friends of Borderland Gift Shop

Stop on by the visitor center at Borderland where the Friends of Borderland, a non-profit organization, will have their gift shop set up. All purchases assist the Friends of Borderland in fulfilling their mission to preserve and interpret Borderland State Park. T-shirts, ornaments, books, dog bandanas and much more will be available. Cash, check or credit cards will be accepted. Severe weather will cancel. For more information, please visit the Friends of Borderlands website: friendsofborderland.org. Parking fees apply: \$5.00 per MA-plate vehicle and \$10 per out-of-state-plate vehicle. For more information, call (508) 238-6566.

Boston Harbor Islands,

Saturday, February 24 11:30am – 3:00pm

Pedlocks Winter Wander – Experience an unforgettable winter day as you wander the trails on Pedlocks Island in search of winter tracks and traces. Look, listen and learn as you discover hidden treasures of the island. Play in the snow (if the weather cooperates); join us for cocoa and gorp in our "winter lodge" or by the fire for s'mores on the beach. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own snowshoes, lunches, binoculars and cameras to enhance their day. This program is suitable for all ages. The boat is handicap accessible as well as most of the Visitor Center. The trails are handicap accessible but may be difficult to traverse in snow conditions. Dress for the weather, wear layers, bring water and lunch. Boats will depart from Long Wharf North in downtown Boston near the Long Wharf Marriott hotel at 11:30am and return at 3:00pm. Tickets can be purchased in advance and cost \$20 for adults and \$15 for kids and seniors. Contact www.bostonharborislands.org or 617-223-8666 for more information.

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton

Saturday, February 24 12:00pm – 12:30pm

Kids Mansion Tour – What would it be like to be a kid living in this huge mansion? Join the Park interpreter for this 30-minute interior tour of the Ames Mansion. Program is best for families with younger kids to explore the first floor of the mansion. For all ages. Meet in front of the Ames Mansion. Rain, snow or shine. Grab a brochure of suggested family hikes from the Visitor Center or the Park Interpreter and enjoy a winter walk at the park before or after your tour. This program is free and open to the public. Parking fees apply: \$5.00 per MA-plate vehicle and \$10 per out-of-state-plate vehicle. For more information, call (508) 238-6566.

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton

Saturday, February 24 1:00pm – 1:35pm

Friends of Borderland Third Floor Mansion Tour

Volunteer tour guides will conduct one (1) tour of the fully furnished three floor stately estate of Oakes and Blanche Ames. 15 people per tour, so space is limited for this single tour. No reservations will be accepted, must be present at 1:00pm at the Ames Mansion on Saturday, February 24, 2018. Meet in front of the Ames Mansion. Children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information on the Friends of Borderland, please visit: www.friendsofborderland.org. Severe weather will cancel. This program is free and open to the public. Parking fees apply: \$5.00 per MA-plate vehicle and \$10 per out-of-state-plate vehicle. For more information, call (508) 238-6566.

Massasoit State Park, 1361 Middleboro Avenue, East Taunton

Saturday, February 24 1:00pm – 2:00pm

Winter Wander Nature Detectives - Spend some time outside exploring our wintery world. We'll take a 1-mile easy walk, looking at nature in the winter. This is a family-friendly outdoors program. No dogs please. Meet at the main parking lot at 1361 Middleboro Avenue in East Taunton. No restrooms at this location. This program is free and open to the public; no parking fee. Rain, snow, or icy trails may cancel. For more information, call (508) 272-9376.

Wompatuck State Park, 204 Union Street, Hingham

Sunday, February 25 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Southeastern Massachusetts Adult Walking Club – Adults need time to experience the outdoors, too! Join the DCR's Southeast Massachusetts Adult Walking Club on an easy 3.25 mile walk for adults 16 and up. This is a “rails to trails hike” on paved and unpaved former railroad bed. For ages 16+. Please dress for the weather and bring water and snack. Meet in front of the Visitor Center at 204 Union Street in Hingham. This hike is free and open to the public; no parking fee. Rain, snow or icy trails may cancel. For more information, call (617) 828-1657.

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Avenue, North Easton

Sunday, February 25 Offered twice; 2:00pm – 1:30pm & 2:00pm – 2:30pm

Ames Mansion Tour: Building a Home – Come get a look at the fully furnished interior of the Ames Mansion, including the ornate two-story library. On this 30-minute guided tour of the home, you will learn about the history of the Ames Mansion and the Ames Family. This is a great tour to familiarize yourself with the unique history at Borderland State Park prior to taking another themed mansion tour. First floor only. For adults and older children. Meet in front of the Ames Mansion. Rain or shine. This program is free and open to the public. Parking fees apply: \$5.00 per MA-plate vehicle and \$10 per out-of-state-plate vehicle. For more information, call (508) 238-6566.

Western Massachusetts

Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls

Open Daily during school vacation week, 10:00am-4:00pm

Investigation Stations: Stop by the welcome desk for investigation stations every day from 10am -4pm. Topics include dinosaurs, mammals and birds! Come try a scavenger hunt or a habitat game!

Mt. Greylock State Reservation, 30 Rockwell Road, Lanesborough, MA

Discover Greylock Activity Station

Ongoing, daily, 9am-4pm

Take a break from the winter chill with a fun investigation of the Mount Greylock Visitor Center Discovery station. This interactive display offers a hands-on exploration of the many cultural and natural features that reveal the fascinating story of Mount Greylock. Park wildlife, the Civilian Conservation Corps and historic landmarks highlight the display for both the casual and curious participant. Games, word puzzles and coloring crafts round out the experience. This

all-ages program is designed as a self-guided activity. FREE. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Reasonable accommodations available upon request. For questions or additional information please call 413-499-4262.

Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls

Saturday, February 17, 1pm-4pm.

Opening Event: Reading the Rocky Book of the Past

Reading the Rocky Book of the Past: Dinosaur Footprints in the Connecticut River Valley.

This fabulous and FREE opening event includes a variety of learning stations for all generations to enjoy: “meet” one of America's earliest women botanical and scientific illustrators - Orra White Hitchcock; try your hand at botanical drawing and painting; make an imitation fossil out of clay; see and learn about real fossils; make your own small collection of gems and shells; or relax with dinosaur books and puzzles and enjoy dino-themed refreshments. Sponsored in part by Massachusetts Cultural Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the members and donors of the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association. Meet in the Great Hall. Free parking is available in the municipal lot off 2nd Street. All Ages. FREE. **All children must be accompanied by a parent/ adult guardian. For more information or directions, call (413) 863-3221. Reasonable accommodations upon request.**

Mt. Greylock State Reservation, 30 Rockwell Road, Lanesborough, MA

Stump the Ranger!

Saturday, February 17, 1pm-2pm

Come to the Visitor Center and meet the really cool Park Rangers for a fun interactive question and answer presentation about Mount Greylock. Topics could range from wildlife ecology to historical trivia and everything in between as we challenge all participants to stump the ranger! This family-oriented program is an ideal opportunity to learn more about the people who work in your parks and pick their brains at the same time. All ages are welcome to this free event. FREE. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Reasonable accommodations available upon request. For questions or additional information please call 413-499-4262.

Western Gateway Heritage State Park, 115 State Street, Bldg. 4, North Adams, MA

Who Art Thou? Series? Art Mysteries

Saturday, February 17, 3pm-4pm

Celebrating North Adams as a growing “art community” this program series investigates some interesting ideas and events in art history. This illustrated lecture explores famous mysteries in art history. Meet in the The Shipper's Office, Building # 4, located in the center of the park. Recommended for ages 13 and up. The Visitor Museum winter hours are Thursday-Sunday, 10:00am - 4:00pm. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Reasonable accommodations available upon advance request. For questions or additional information, please call the park at 413-663-6312.

Mt. Greylock State Reservation, 30 Rockwell Road, Lanesborough, MA

Winter Break Snoeshoe Hike

Sunday, February 18, 1pm-3pm

Shake off the mid-winter blues and kick up your heels with a refreshing hike on the Bradley Farm Trail at Mount Greylock. This easy-moderate 1.8-mile stroll through gentle rolling mixed hardwood forest offers an ideal connection to the natural world in winter. We'll check out wildlife tracks, identify trees by their bark and enjoy the great outdoors! Meet at the Visitor Center. Dress for the weather in warm layers; snowshoes, or traction devices for boots, and trekking poles are highly recommended. Suitable for ages 8 and up. All children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Inclement weather cancels the program. FREE. Reasonable accommodations available upon request. For questions or additional information please call 413-499-4262.

Mt. Greylock State Reservation, 30 Rockwell Road, Lanesborough, MA

Finding Your Way In Winter

Monday, February 19, 9am-4pm

Stop by the Visitor Center and discover ways to navigate outdoors in winter. An interactive exploration display station features useful tools like maps, compass along with a few tricks to identify animal tracks and trees from their bark. Activities such as crafts and games round out the individual experience. This drop-in program is a self-guided activity. All ages are welcome. FREE. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Reasonable accommodations available upon request. For questions or additional information please call 413-499-4262.

DAR State Forest, 78 Cape Street/Route 112, Goshen

Winter Wonders Family Fun

Monday, February 19, 1pm-2:30pm

There's lots to notice and wonder about in winter. This guided family program wanders past pond, through woods, and to the marshland wildlife blind on level but unplowed paths. Look for tracks and other evidence of wildlife. Round trip distance approximately 1.75 miles; slow to moderate pace. Please wear very warm footgear and clothing in layers. Hiking poles and ice creepers may be helpful. Suitable for families accustomed to winter walks. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Meet in the warming hut at the D.A.R. State Forest Day Use parking lot, 78 Cape Street (Route 112), Goshen, Massachusetts, 01032. Inclement weather or severe cold cancels the program. Please call the DCR Regional Educator's cell phone, (617) 699-2387, if you have questions or need updates.

Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls

Wednesday, February 21, 10:30am – 11:30 a.m.

Homeschool Science: Hands-on STEM -Porcupines

Sponsored by Montague Public Libraries. The Turners Falls Carnegie Library offers homeschool science on Wednesdays with a focus on science, technology, engineering, and math. This month young scientists are invited to take a field trip to the Great Falls Discovery Center. Come learn about our wildlife neighbors who share our home in the Connecticut River Watershed. Registration requested to ensure that we have enough supplies for everyone. Please email Angela at the library at arovatti-leonard@cwmar.org or call 413 863-3214. Meet at the Welcome Desk. Free parking is available in the municipal lot off 2nd Street.

Mt. Greylock State Reservation, 30 Rockwell Road, Lanesborough, MA

Nice and Easy Trail Hike

Thursday, February 22, 10am-12pm

Self-guided, easy paced two to five mile hikes geared especially for seniors, but open to all ages. Hikes may include bird viewing, tree identification or just a great opportunity to join other hiking enthusiasts. Be prepared for the weather; wear appropriate clothing, bring trekking poles, traction devices for boots, water and a snack. Inclement weather cancels.

Mt. Greylock State Reservation, 30 Rockwell Road, Lanesborough, MA

Owl Appreciation Day at Mount Greylock

Friday, February 23, 9am-4pm

"Who hoots for you? Find the answer to that question with a visit to the Discover Greylock Exploration Station as we celebrate "Owl Appreciation Day" at Mount Greylock. Investigate the mysterious Barred Owl and learn cool facts like why its head rotates and how it is able to hear without ears. Participants are invited to enjoy this fun self-guided activity station by making their very own owl hand puppet. All ages are welcome. FREE. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Reasonable accommodations available with advanced notice. For questions or additional information please call 413-499-4262.

Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls

Kiddleidoscope Story Hour,-Coyotes

Friday, February 23, 10:30am – 11:30 a.m.

Come learn about our wildlife neighbors who share our home in the Connecticut River Watershed. Program includes a story, interactive games, and a craft to introduce young children to wildlife along the river. Meet in the Great Hall. For ages 3-6. Siblings and friends welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult. This week's topic is: Coyotes!

Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls

Saturday, February 24, 10:30am – 11:30 a.m.

Dinosaur Story Hour

A story hour with crafts and activities focusing on dinosaurs! For ages approximately 4-8, with parent or guardian. Friends and siblings welcome.

Mt. Greylock State Reservation, 30 Rockwell Road, Lanesborough, MA

Saturday, February 24, 1:00-2:00pm

Rockachusetts!

Slide Show and (optional) Hike

Ever wonder about those big rocks that you find scattered around New England? Hear and see the amazing inside story of these phenomenal geological landmarks as we join local photographer, author and intrepid boulder enthusiast Christy Butler for a fascinating photographic slide show presentation about glacial stones, at the Mount Greylock Visitor Center. Christy shares many of his favorite locations of these colossal erratic's and offer a sneak preview of his latest book "Erratic Wanderings, an Explorer's Guide;" available at local book stores, enabling you to discover them for yourself – many in Massachusetts State Parks. This is a FREE event suitable for all ages. **Note:** The program will be followed by an optional moderate 1-hour hike on the Bradley Farm Trail. Hike participants must be age 8 and up. All

hike participants require either snowshoes or sturdy boots with traction devices. Dress for the weather in warm layers. Bring a snack and water. Children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Meet at the Visitor Center. Reasonable accommodations available with advanced notice. For questions or additional information please call 413-499-4262.

Saturday, February 24, 2018, 3:00pm-4:00pm

Who Art Thou? Series: Art Scandals

Celebrating North Adams as a growing “art community” this program series investigates some interesting ideas and events in art history. This illustrated lecture explores some of the most famous art scandals throughout history. Meet in the The Shipper's Office, Building # 4, located in the center of the park. Recommended for ages 13 and up. The Visitor Museum winter hours are Thursday-Sunday, 10:00am - 4:00pm. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Reasonable accommodations available upon advance request. For questions or additional information, please call the park at 413-663-6312.

Mt. Greylock State Reservation, 30 Rockwell Road, Lanesborough, MA

Stump the Ranger!

Sunday, February 25, 1pm-2pm

Come to the Visitor Center and meet the really cool Park Rangers for a fun interactive question and answer presentation about Mount Greylock. Topics could range from wildlife ecology to historical trivia and everything in between as we challenge all participants to stump the ranger! This family-oriented program is an ideal opportunity to learn more about the people who work in your parks and pick their brains at the same time. All ages are welcome to this free event. FREE. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Reasonable accommodations available upon request. For questions or additional information please call 413-499-4262.

Mt. Tom State Reservation, 125 Reservation Road, Holyoke, MA

Sunday, February 25, 1pm-2:30pm

Signs of the Season Family Program

What's Mother Nature up to at the end of February? Are we still in the depths of winter? Or may we see signs of spring's approach? Let's check it out at Mt. Tom State Reservation. Start with indoor activities then let's go on outdoor exploration in the nearby woodlands. The amount of time indoors and out depends on ground conditions that day. Please wear warm foot gear for snow or cold, and warm clothing in layers. Bring your curiosity and sense of adventure! For families with school age children, ages 4-10 and the young at heart. FREE. Meet in the Bray Lake Warming Hut, 125 Reservation Road, Holyoke, MA, near the Route 5 entrance. Reasonable accommodations available with advanced notice. Inclement weather or recent snow may cancel the program. Please call the DCR Regional Educator's cell, (617) 699-2387, if you have questions or need updates.

Visitor Center and Exhibits

Northeastern Massachusetts

Walden Pond State Reservation, 915 Walden St., Concord

Open Daily, 10:00am-3:30pm

NEW WALDEN POND VISITOR CENTER

Come visit the new, earth-friendly (*LEED certified*) visitor center at Walden Pond. Check out the new exhibits featuring the legacy of Henry David Thoreau. This is DCR's first net-zero energy use building, with solar panels generating all the energy needs. All the wood used in the project is FSC, Forest Stewardship Certified *and much is also repurposed from trees sacrificed for construction*. You can also view the "Walden" film produced by Ken Burns Productions. All ages are welcome! Daily, seven days a week 10:00am-3:30pm, at the Walden Pond Visitor Center.

Lawrence Heritage State Park, 1 Jackson Street, Lawrence

Open Daily, 9:00am-4:00pm

Visitor Center Exhibit "City of Workers" A restored boarding house with two floors of interactive exhibits tells the tale of Lawrence, one of the nation's first planned industrial cities. Along with stories of Lawrence's mill workers and industry, the workers' role in the 1912 Bread and Roses Strike is relived with images and sounds. Accessible. For more information or directions, please call 978-794-1655.

Central Massachusetts

Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park

River Bend Farm Visitor Center, 287 Oak St., Uxbridge

Visitors' Center Open Daily, 10:00am-4:00pm

Following the Plough Exhibit at the River Bend Farm Visitor Center - The Visitors' Center is open from 10am-4pm daily. The exhibit "Following the Plough" explores the story of the Blackstone Valley and its communities from pre-European settlement through European style agricultural development, industrialization, and into today. Guided tours for groups with advance notice. Free Admission. Accessible.

During your visit to Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park, you might want to try the self-guided **Healthy Heart Towpath Walk**: Staying active is a healthy life choice and what better place than in a beautiful state park. Portions of the Blackstone Canal Towpath are designated as an easy 1 mile Healthy Heart Hike. Pick up a self-guided towpath brochure in the visitor center and get out often for this enjoyable walk that offers diverse scenery year-round. Dress for the weather. Trails may be snowy or icy during winter. For more information, please call 508-278-7604.

Purgatory Chasm State Reservation

Purgatory Chasm Visitor Center, 198 Purgatory Road, Sutton

Winter hours for Visitor Center are normally M-F from 9am to 4pm, but these days or hours may vary based on winter staffing.

The Chasm is closed during the winter months due to ice and snow. All other trails in the park are open.

At the Visitors' Center you can find trail maps, general information about Purgatory Chasm, educational displays, and the park's main office. Restrooms are available inside when the Visitors' Center is open. Portable toilets are available in the Visitors' Center parking lot if the Visitors' Center is closed. For more information, please call 508-234-3733.

Wachusett Mountain State Reservation

John Hitchcock Visitor Center, 345 Mountain Road, Princeton

Visitor Center Open daily, 8:00am – 3:30pm (hours may vary based on winter staffing)

The Visitor Center highlights the story of Wachusett Mountain through exhibits focused on natural and cultural history and the features of the mountain. The Visitor Center is wheelchair accessible. Free admission. Restrooms are available in the Visitor Center during building's open hours. Portable toilets are available in the Visitor Center parking lot if the Visitor Center is closed. For more information, please call 978-464-2987.

Quabbin Reservoir

485 Ware Road (Rte. 9), Belchertown

Open Monday- Friday 8:30am -4:30pm and 9:00am-4:30 pm on weekends.

Visitor Center & Exhibits Enjoy displays about the history of the Quabbin Valley and how the reservoir was built. Learn about wildlife at the Quabbin and some of the research being done there. Visitors may request viewing one of several short videos about the area as well. For more information, please call 413-323-722.

Southeastern Massachusetts

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Ave, North Easton

Open Daily, 8:00am-4:00pm

Visitor Center "Ames Family History Gallery" -Borderland is one of the most historically significant tracts of publicly owned land in the Commonwealth. Created in the early 1900s by artist and suffragist Blanche Ames and her botanist husband Oakes, Borderland offers many of the same pleasures that the Ames family enjoyed. Learn about the family through the park's exhibits. Then enjoy the winter recreational experiences once enjoyed by this famous family at their "Borderland." A variety of self-guided walk brochures are available in the Visitor Center vestibule. Accessible. For more information or directions, please call (508) 238-6566. There is a \$5.00 per vehicle parking fee; \$10.00 for out-of-state vehicles.

Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, 131 Waquoit Hwy (Rte. 28), E. Falmouth. Open: **Tuesday-Friday, 10:00am-5:00pm**

Come in from the cold and explore our exhibits along with a host of self-guided, hands-on activities including scent bottles, leaf rubbings, sound detectives, animal life cycles and more. Accessible. For more information or directions, please call (508) 457-0495 x125.

Western Massachusetts

Great Falls Discovery Center

2 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376

413-863-3221

Visitor Center open daily, February 17-25, 10:00am-4:00pm

Come visit and explore the fantastic Discovery Center exhibits featuring the variety of natural

habitats found in the Connecticut River Valley! We offer expanded winter hours this week. Stop by the welcome desk for Investigation Stations every day, 10:00am to 4:00pm. Investigation Station topics may include dinosaurs, mammals, and birds. Ask for a scavenger hunt, or a habitat game! Also see the special exhibit - Reading the Rocky Book of the Past: Dinosaur Footprints in the Connecticut River Valley, featuring a festive opening event on Saturday, February 17, 1:00-4:00pm.

February 17-25, 2018

SPECIAL EXHIBIT: Reading the Rocky Book of the Past: Dinosaur Footprints in the Connecticut River Valley

An engaging exhibit about the 19th-century discovery of dinosaur footprints in the Connecticut River Valley and local people, like Dexter Marsh and Edward Hitchcock, who played starring roles in the story. Designed for fun family learning by Deerfield's Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association (PVMA). The exhibit space includes two simulated 19th century cabinets (precursors to today's museums), a "make your own collection" takeaway activity, dinosaur track reproductions and more! Be sure to come to the fabulous opening event Saturday, February 17, 1-4 pm. (During some of the larger events in the Great Hall in February and March, the exhibit might not be fully visible. Please check our events calendar or call 413-863-3221 to find out more.). FREE.

Holyoke Heritage State Park

221 Appleton Street, Holyoke

Wednesday through Sunday, 12:00pm to 4:00pm.

Explore Holyoke's industrial history. Exhibits celebrate the city's rich blend of cultures and people. Special programs are offered year-round. Also located within the park are The Children's Museum, the restored antique Holyoke Merry-Go-Round and the Volleyball Hall of Fame. Visitor information available. Wheelchair accessible. For more information or directions, please call (413) 534-1723.

Mount Greylock State Reservation Visitor Center

Thursdays through Mondays, closed Tuesday and Wednesday, 9:00am-4:00pm

30 Rockwell Road, Lanesborough, MA 01238

413-499-4262

The Visitor Center is the primary information and orientation site for visitors to Mount Greylock State Reservation. Located within a mix of open fields and woods and offers a spectacular panoramic view south across the Berkshire Hills and the Taconic Mountains. Dynamic exhibits and an orientation film explore the history and nature of the highest point in the Commonwealth. A recreational opportunity here includes an easy 1.8 mile loop hike along the Bradley Farm Interpretive Trail. Visitor information available. Wheelchair accessible. Call 413-499-4262 for more information.

Western Gateway Heritage State Park

Wednesdays through Sundays, closed Monday and Tuesday, 10:00am-4:00pm.

115 State Street, Building # 4, North Adams, MA 01247

413-663-6312

Visitors to this former railroad yard in North Adams, MA may discover about the controversial and dangerous construction of the 4.75-mile Hoosac Tunnel, which spanned 1851-1875.

Offered is a short documentary film about the tunnel, still in use today. Visitors can see historical artifacts and exhibits to better understand this historic engineering feat and the cultural-industrial story of this smallest in Massachusetts. Visitor information available.

Wheelchair accessible. Call 413-663-6312 for more information.

Ongoing Resources

Public Skating. Ice skating is a great winter activity for people of all ages and abilities. Many ice skating rinks have skate rentals and snack concessions. Visit <https://www.mass.gov/ice-skating> for a listing of rinks and resources statewide. Check out the extended public skating hours for vacation week!

Healthy Heart Trails. Trails are the heart of our parks and DCR wants them to be the heart of a healthy lifestyle. Statewide, over 70 trails are designated as Healthy Heart Trails in the hope that Massachusetts residents will make them part of their regular exercise routine. Healthy Heart trails are identified by a green heart symbol, measure approximately 1.5 miles or less in length, and are easy to moderate in activity level. The program offers a great way to have fun and get exercise in a low cost way! Visit <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/find-a-healthy-heart-trail> for more information, trail listings and downloads.